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Your Reference: 9156
Application No: GB 0010943.9

24 November 2000

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations. In my view, claims 1,26 (at least) are anticipated by conventional web sales arrangements since the "communications device" claimed could be what is conventionally included at the web-interface to permit communication over the web, authorisation being by entering the credit card number into the web-interface and clicking on "OK" (or etc). I have limited the search to exclude this type of prior art.

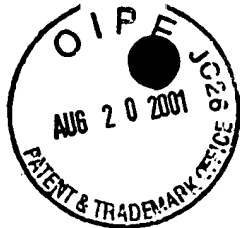
Plurality of invention

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention as follows:

- (a) claims 1-15,26-39
- (b) claims 16-23
- (c) claim 24
- (d) claim 25
- (e) claims 40-57

My search report relates to the first invention only. If you want any of the other inventions searched, you should file a separate Patents Form 9/77 for each invention. **However,**

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invention (b) is anticipated by eg a conventional phone since the user could authorise the payment by speaking to a human over the phone. Invention (c) would cover a web site which provided a transaction identifier to the user eg for reference, even if there was no disclosure that it was to be used for authorisation. The documents cited against invention (a) are also citable against invention (e).

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **21 August 2001**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

Mike Davis
Examiner